

US20000055-1

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending in this application and Claims 2-9 and 25-44 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 19 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention.

Applicants believe the amendments made herein add no new matter. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 19 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 19 to include the phrase "supplemental drying" to clarify that the claims are directed to "the supplemental drying discrete space." Applicants are uncertain as to why claims 21-24 were rejected as claims 21-24 do not depend from currently amended claim 19 and appear to be definite. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 10, 12-14, 20 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sanka, JP 09-010492. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 defines, among other elements, "an integrated cabinet assembly defining a plurality of discrete spaces including...a clothes dryer discrete space for housing at least a portion of a clothes dryer within the dryer discrete space; at least one supplemental drying discrete space..."

US20000055-1

Sanka discloses a cabinet having a washing machine 40 and a clothes dryer 30 within the lower section B and upper section A of the cabinet respectively. Each section may be opened and closed separately with the use of doors. Additionally, the upper section A is the drying room of the clothes dryer 30.

“To anticipate, every element and limitation of the claimed invention must be found in a single prior art reference, arranged as in the claim.” *Brown v. 3M*, 265 F.2d 1349, 1351 (Fed. Cir. 2001); *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion in Sanka of two separate and distinct drying discrete spaces as is claimed in independent claim 1 in this application – “a clothes dryer discrete space for housing at least a portion of a clothes dryer within the dryer discrete space; at least one supplemental drying discrete space...” In the office action, the Examiner contends that Sanka discloses a space for a clothes dryer 30 and a supplemental drying space A. However, Sanka teaches that the clothes dryer 30 and upper section A are one space and necessarily linked to one another. In contrast, Applicants invention discloses two separate and distinct drying spaces.

Because Sanka does not contain “every element and limitation of the claimed invention,” *Brown, supra*, the Examiner’s §102 rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Additionally, since claims 10, 12-14, 20 and 45 depend from and include the same distinctive features of one of claim 1, the rejection of these claims should also be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 11, 15-17 and 21-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanka in view of Proctor, U.S. Patent No. 502,237. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

US20000055-1

As previously stated, Sanka discloses a cabinet having a washing machine 40 and a clothes dryer 30 within the lower section B and upper section A of the cabinet respectively. Each section may be opened and closed separately with the use of doors. Additionally, the upper section A is the drying room of the clothes dryer 30.

Proctor teaches a drying machine in which the material to be dried is supported in a drying enclosure and is subjected therein to heat furnished by radiating surfaces. The heated air is diffused and mixed by means of air currents. The drying machine includes slides or drawers F that are capable of being fully or partially withdrawn from the machine while the material is placed in them and being returned within the machine during the drying process.

Applicants can not find any teaching or suggestion in either Sanka or Proctor of two separate and distinct drying discrete spaces as is claimed in independent claim 1 in this application – “a clothes dryer discrete space for housing at least a portion of a clothes dryer within the dryer discrete space; at least one supplemental drying discrete space...” as is claimed in independent claim 1. To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In Re Royka*, 490 F.2d 980; 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (CCPA 1974). In this case, since Applicants can not find any teaching or suggestion in either Sanka or Proctor of at least one of the elements recited in independent claim 1, there is nothing that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to attempt to modify the Sanka or Proctor references to include such elements. Accordingly, Applicants believe the attempted combination of Sanka or Proctor must fail and that independent claim 1 and claims 11, 15-17 and 21-24 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable over the prior art references. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

US20000055-1

Claims 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanka in view of Rice, U.S. Patent No. 5,720,108. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As previously stated, Sanka discloses a cabinet having a washing machine 40 and a clothes dryer 30 within the lower section B and upper section A of the cabinet respectively. Each section may be opened and closed separately with the use of doors. Additionally, the upper section A is the drying room of the clothes dryer 30.

Rice teaches a drying device that can be used for drying or warming the insides of boots, gloves, mittens, and other clothing articles used for protecting extremities of a person's body in snow or inclement weather. The drying device includes a heater/air blower assembly 16 for producing a blowing stream of hot air A, and a duct assembly 18. The duct assembly 18 includes a manifold 19 for splitting the air stream from the air blower assembly 16 into two streams. A pair of hoses or duct tubes 20, 22 conduct the two air streams A from the manifold 19 to the interiors of a pair of boots, gloves, or other clothing articles to be dried, and optional nozzles 24, 26 (only nozzle 26 is shown in FIG. 3) for directing the air stream A in the boots 12 or gloves 14. The air stream A discharged through hose nozzles 24, 26 circulates within the interior of the boots 12 or gloves 14 before exiting, thus warming and drying the inside 28 of the boots 12 or gloves 14.

Applicants can not find any teaching or suggestion in either Sanka or Rice of two separate and distinct drying discrete spaces as is claimed in independent claim 1 in this application – “a clothes dryer discrete space for housing at least a portion of a clothes dryer within the dryer discrete space; at least one supplemental drying discrete space...” as is claimed in independent claim 1. To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In Re Royka*, 490 F.2d 980; 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (CCPA

US20000055-1

1974). In this case, since Applicants can not find any teaching or suggestion in either Sanka or Rice of at least one of the elements recited in independent claim 1, there is nothing that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to attempt to modify the Sanka or Rice references to include such elements. Accordingly, Applicants believe the attempted combination of Sanka or Rice must fail and that independent claim 1 and claims 17-19 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable over the prior art references. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants believe that claims 1, 10-24 and 45 are in condition for immediate allowance. It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims in the application are allowable over the prior art of record. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned attorney.

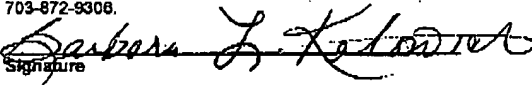
Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: February 4, 2005

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